Shifting of HQ of the Office of Salt Commissioner

3112. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a decision was taken in December, 1994 to shift the Head Quarter of the Office of Salt Commissioner from Jaipur to Gandhinagar (Gujarat); and

(b) if so, the details of actions taken by Government since then to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All India Salt Department Employees' Union challenged the decision of Government before the Hon'ble High Court, Rajasthan. The Hon'ble Court stayed the decision of shifting with order passed on 29.11.1994. The Government of Rajasthan and Gujarat impleaded themselves as interested parties. The Court in their order dated 04.10.2007 directed to have a re-look into the matter after consulting all stake holders. The judgment of the Hon'ble High Court is under implementation.

Relief package for exporters

3113. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fresh relief package approved by Government for exporters;

(b) whether the new package is in addition to Rs. 300 crore announced by Government earlier;

(c) how the new relief package will help the exporters to achieve the export targets; and

(d) the details of sectors identified for the purpose for availing the package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a)and (b) In the Annual Supplement to Foreign Trade Policy (RE 2008), following measures have been announced providing new package of relief measures to exporters to be made effective from 1.4.2008. (i) Extension of DEPB Scheme till 31.5.2009 and continuation of enhanced DEPB Rates beyond 31.3.2008. With effect from 1.4.2007, DEPB Rates were enhanced by 3% for 9 sectors and 2% for others with certain modifications subsequently; (ii) Income Tax benefit to 100% EOUs under Section 10B of IT Act extended for one more year, beyond 2009; (iii) Interest subvention provided last year to sectors affected by Rupee Appreciation and to SMEs, has been extended by one more year i.e. till 31.3.2009; (iv) Customs duty payable under EPCG Scheme has been reduced from 5% to 3% for all sectors. It will boost technology upgradation and capacity expansion at a relatively lower cost. Further, there would be reduced average export obligation under EPCG Scheme, for sectors, which have witnessed decline in exports, in the previous years; (v) Service Tax Notification No. 17/2008 issued on 1.4.2008 allowing refund of service tax paid by exporters on 3 more taxable services. This will be applicable for all exporting sectors; (vi) Procedure for payment of interest @6% per annum laid down in case of delay in

payment of TED and Duty Drawback under Deemed Exports and CST for supplies to EOUs. This would be applicable to all sectors.

(c) The new relief package is expected to help exporters face the situation arising out of rupee appreciation in particular and to keep them competitive. This will ensure that country's export targets are met.

(d) Except for Interest subvention which is for the nine identified sectors and SMEs, rest of the package is for all the export sectors.

Formulation of Manufacturing Policy

3114. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to formulate a 'Manufacturing Policy';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The present Industrial Policy of the Government is guided by the Statemenet on Industrial Policy, 1991 and Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1954, as amended from time to time. Government constituted "National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council" (NMCC) in September, 2004, to function as inter-disciplinary and autonomous body to serve as a policy forum for credible and coherent policy initiative in manufacturing sector. In their interaction with the Ministries NMCC advises in formulating policies and such measures/reforms as may be required for improving the competitiveness and growth of the manufacturing sector. Various incentives in the form of fiscal and tax relief in specified sectors in manufacturing activity are also given. There is a continuous evaluation and review of policy relating to the Manufacturing and other sectors.

Special concession to Indian exports

†3115. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that keeping in view the competition in International market it is necessary to given special concession to Indian exports in order to make sale-purchase of Indian products smooth and profitable;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the average annual concession given to exporters financially by Government during the last five years;

(d) whether it has become necessary to give additional concessions alongwith present concessions; and

(e) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.